

Minutes, WT Task Force Against Discrimination, October 19, 2021, 5 p.m.
APPROVED NOV. 9, 2021

Present: Omar Johnson, Susanna Sturgis, Bradley Cortez, Alexandra Pratt, Terry Kriedman

Progress report for 11/18 event

We reviewed the press release for the event as drafted by Alexandra and agreed it was great. Once the tweaks are entered in the Google Doc, she will send it to the newspapers and the West Tisbury town columnists.

Omar reported that selectboard member Cindy Mitchell has agreed to introduce the event and explain how the Diversity Statement and the task force came about.

Susanna reported that Dan Waters is happy to moderate. He asked that we let him know how we'd like him to focus the "listening" part of the meeting.

Terry asked what we should include in our personal introductions -- how personal should they be, etc. Omar recommended keeping it simple, but tying our own individual experiences to the purpose of the task force. At our next meeting we can share what we're thinking of saying.

The question was raised about whether we can discuss what we want to say between meetings without violating the Open Meeting Law (OML). We believe it's OK to share our drafts via email but we should hold discussion till the next meeting.

Open Meeting Law discussion

Terry asked whether, when someone comes to us with a concern, is it subject to the OML? That person deserves privacy. Confidentiality is important.

Susanna agreed and suggested we get Tara's opinion on this. Does everything have to be in the public record, the minutes, etc.? She mentioned the NAACP's Legislative Redress group, which can receive and investigate complaints where confidentiality is important, but they're not covered by the OML.

Omar will follow up with Tara about this.

The minutes for our Oct. 5 meeting were approved. [SJS note: They were sent to Tara shortly after the meeting.]

Respectfully submitted,

Susanna J. Sturgis
Recorder